

REMARKS

The indication that claims 3-7 and 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged. By the present amendment, claims 3, 4 and 7 which depend directly from claim 2 have been written in independent form and claims 9-12 which depend directly from claim 8 have been written in independent form. As such, these claims should now be in condition for allowance. Additionally, dependent claims 5 and 6 which depend directly from claim 4 which has been written in independent form and should be in condition for allowance, have been retained in dependent form and should be considered allowable with independent parent claim 4 thereof. Thus, applicants submit that all objected to claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Additionally, by the present amendment, claims 1, 2 and 8 have been canceled and the abstract has been revised to be in single paragraph form as well as to avoid the utilization of "means" language therein.

As to the rejection of claims 1-2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown et al, this rejection is considered to be obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-2 and 8, such that applicants submit that a discussion of the cited art in relation to such claims is considered unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that only claims 3-7 and 9-12, indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, remain in this application and such claims have been presented in a form so that these claims should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.41110X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melvin Kraus", is written over a horizontal line.

Melvin Kraus

Registration No. 22,466

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

MK/cee
(703) 312-6600